The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor centering in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL!
To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

ITU Convention Backs Union Policies; Approves Entry Into Newspaper Field

Milwaukee.—The final session of the 90th convention of the AFL's International Typographical Union voted to reaffirm the union's collective bargaining policies and those of its president, Woodruff Randolph.

Specifically, the delegates approved resolutions which included the following:

1. Granting of more liberal authority to union officers in the use of printing defense funds to establish newspapers to compete with or replace publications whose printers are striking or threatening to strike.

2. Providing means whereby action may be taken against newspaper chains when printers of one newspaper in the chain are on strike.

3. Recommending that the union start an organization drive among employee engaged in substitute printing processes.

In another development the convention enthusiastically received a telegram from President Truman promising an immediate and thorough investigation of the ITU's "shocking charge" that Secretary Robert A. Taft had sought to prevail on the general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board to start contempt of court action against the union.

The spending authority was contained in a new by-law section that authorized expenses including those "incurred in establishing or encouraging the establishment of enterprises to compete with or replace any establishment where a strike or lockout is, or has been in progress, or is threatened."

In a standing vote on final passage, not more than a dozen out of about 300 delegates cast votes in opposition.

A defense committee's report reflected the "menace" of substitute printing processes, such as the Varityper, and said it "cannot safely be ignored."

The report continued: "so long as these workers remain unorganized by our union, they are a threat to our very existence. This is one of the gravest problems we have in the ITU today, and it will not be solved by belittling the substitute processes or by underestimating the people who work in these processes."

The main newspaper subject was dealt with in the following new by-law: "Any publication or establishment more than one plant or establishment, against unions in whose jurisdictions such plants or establishments are located, which takes such action as is lawful under civil law after approval by the executive council."

Workers' Assistance Urged To Reduce Losses From Fire

Washington.—Organized labor can play an important role in the nation's all-out battle against fire damage, Truman declared in a letter which has been proclaimed Fire Prevention Week by President Harry S. Truman.

Locals in some cities will be represented on community fire safety committees, organized in 600 cities to help cut down on the current annual loss of 10,000 lives in fires and to cut the staggering $700,000,000 annual cost of fire.

With the slogan, "Stop Fires, Save Jobs!" the campaign will emphasize that fire is everybody's enemy, robbing pay envelopes as well as bank accounts.

Studies made by the National Board of Fire Underwriters show that many workers are left jobless each year as a direct result of fires in business and industry. As much as 45 percent of all businesses suffering fire losses and $1,000 or more never reopen, the board said, within a year.

Fire protection engineers state that individual workers can help reduce the annual fire cost by observing seven rules. They are:

Don't smoke while smoking is forbidden.

Be sure every cigarette, pipe, cigar or match is out before you throw it away.

Don't allow machinery to run unattended. Notify the foreman of any unusual behavior or heating of equipment.

Always clean up rubbish and litter.

Don't use open flames near flammable or explosive materials.

Keep aisles and stairways clean and clear at all times, ready for use in emergency exits.

Learn how to use fire extinguishing equipment and how to turn in an alarm before the necessity arises.

These simple rules can save lives and jobs, experts say. A fire safety handbook, "Stop Fires, Save Jobs," is available from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York City.

Truman Opens Drive For More Jobs For Nation's Handicapped Workers

Washington.—More than 150 members of the President's Committee on the National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week heard Mr. Truman open the 1948 drive for National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week (Oct. 3-9), aimed at more employment opportunities for the disabled, both veterans and civilians.

"The records show," the President said, "that there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 28,000,000 adults in the physically handicapped from four or five different causes—the principal causes, of course, being those who were crippled in the war; although I say to you that had there been no war there would have been just as many physically handicapped."

He added that helping America's physically handicapped workers to rehabilitate themselves through opening up employment opportunities for them is one of the greatest things we can do, "and it is the cheapest thing. "The thing that I have been particularly interested in," the President said, "is to help prevent those who become physical handicaps from developing into mental handicaps, and that's to find some way—and we are finding ways—to give them a profitable and productive industry.

In your own pamphlet that you are getting out this week are statistics which show that expenditures by the federal government to rehabilitate the physically handicapped returned $10 for every $1 invested in the rehabilitation of those people. That is a wonderful thing because it creates a mental attitude that is just as important and as vitally interested in this and I want to congratulate you on that and to you that just because Congress has not passed the bill for the Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, that is no reason why we at this time, the thing must go on 52 weeks in the year to help the handicapped—they are a whole what you are doing."

NUMBER OF DISABLED VETS IN FEDERAL JOBS DOUBLES

Washington.—The number of disabled veterans employed by the federal government has more than doubled since January, 1946, the Civil Service Commission reported.

Congress has ordered that all veterans generally, and disabled veterans specifically, be given preference in filling government jobs.

In January, 1946, there were 50,973 disabled veterans on the U. S. payroll. The figure for June, 1948, was 103,770.

AFL AFFILIATES OPPOSE N. Y. PORT EXPANSION PLAN

New York.—The AFL's Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York added its name to a number of organizations opposing the Port of New York Authority's $114,000,000 proposal to take over operation and financing of city waterfront rehabilitation.

The council, which says it represents 750,000 workers, called on the city to reject the Port Authority proposal and to finance its own rehabilitation program "through some source other than by dealing with the Authority."

The council's action followed a similar one by the International Longshoremen's Union, AFL, made public in a letter to Mayor O'Dwyer, by Joseph P. Ryan, ILA president.

U. S. PROVIDED NEARLY 70% OF THE WORLD'S MONEY AID

Geneva, Switzerland.—The United States provided nearly 70 percent of all financial aid to other countries since the end of the war, according to figures released by the United Nations.

Statistics place private and governmental aid from the United States at $16,160,000,000. Britain was second on the list, giving $2,800,000,000 to other war devastated countries.

Canada with $1,884,000,000, Argentina, $321,600,000 and the Soviet Union $478,000,000 followed. The Russian contribution consisted entirely of a government loan to Poland.

In turn Britain received the greatest amount of aid—$6,670,000,000; France was second on the list, getting $3,567,000,000. Other high recipients were the Anglo-American zone of Germany, $1,376,000,000; Italy, $1,859,000,000; Poland, $1,150,000,000, and the Netherlands, $1,054,000,000.

The figures include all aid given by governmental and intergovernmental agencies and private corporations. They excluded expenditures of certain relief and refugee agencies.

Full Backing of Labor Held Essential To Economic Recovery in Europe

Washington.—Economic recovery in Europe calls for the fullest backing of the labor movement, both overseas and in the United States, declared Bert M. Jewell and Clinton S. Golden, labor advisers to the Economic Cooperation Administration.

Reporting on their recent 3-week trip through Europe, the labor leaders said that the problem of recovery is "in one of even greater magnitude and intricacy than we first thought."

"This means," they said at a press conference, "that American labor has a greater responsibility and opportunity than it has ever had to make its objectives of economic recovery, social reconstruction, and sound democracy real."

The proposal for the establishment of a British-American production council was hailed by the labor advisers as an auspicious beginning. They expressed the hope that it would be the prototype of other groups linking this country's productive knowledge to the European industrial problems.

Mr. Jewell, former president of the AFL's Railway Employes Department, noted that there was a scarcity of skilled manpower in the western European countries exiept in Italy, where unemployment was widespread. This shortage could be cured by programs of training and retraining workers in which this country could help, he added.

There can be no great gain in European production without parallel arrangements involving the retraining not only of workers but of management, larger interchange of basic materials across borders and increased sources of industrial power, he asserted.

People are working in Europe, and "if there were not a time factor, a hunger factor and a fear factor skillfully cultivated by the Communists, the labor advisers believed that the European outlook carries "a kind of prosperity" in about 10 years, even without American aid.

"It is clear to even an amateur observer that such cannot be the case in the present situation," they added, because of the paralyzing fear that gripped Europe over such situations as the tension between the Western Powers and Russia at Berlin.

"There must be overall cooperation and collective effort within each nation and there must be a new concept of democracy in which the human motivation will cut across national boundary lines," they said.

"Because labor is more accustomed to such international cooperation, over the years, labor has an unusual role to play. It is our candid opinion that the inspiration for a new concept of international relations between the democratic countries of Europe should come from American labor."

Patterson Recommends U. S. Officials Assist Europe in Apprentice Training

Huntington, W. Va.—The need for skilled workers in Europe and what this country can do, and is doing, to assist industry in some of the countries there is the subject of a craftsmen through apprenticeship was discussed by William F. Patterson, director, Bureau of Apprenticeship, U. S. Department of Labor, at the convention of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor here.

Mr. Patterson's talk was based on information he obtained on a recent trip to France, Italy and Greece for use by the Labor Department in its foreign activities.

"As a result of my observations," Patterson said, "I am recommending to our government that arrangements be made for several key representatives from the Bureau of Apprenticeship in some of the European countries to act as advisors to the governments in both the employer and labor to see what can be done toward improving management and labor relations through apprentice-ship. I am convinced that an equal number of persons from other countries be brought to the United States to study at first-hand how the national voluntary apprenticeship program is working out here."

How European industry may be benefited through exchange of information is shown by Patterson's visit in Greece, Patterson pointed out. A representative from the Bureau of Apprenticeship, he said, is now in that country with the American Mission to Greece. While there he has established a training center for the railroad industry to set up a pilot apprenticeship program, and has also aided the government of Greece in the drafting of legislation that is expected to be enacted in a short time.

"In this country," Mr. Patterson said, "we have developed certain methods and techniques of getting people together, of working together, which the people of other countries do not have to the same degree in their own use. They want to learn how our labor organizations work, and what it is that makes for the high degree of cooperation that exists between 'know how.'"

Unchecked Boom Due to Bust, AFL Executive Council Warns

U.S. Court Order Under Taft-Hartley Law Prohibits Strike by AFL Longshoremen

New York.—Using its injunction club provided by the Taft-Hartley law, the government sought and received a temporary 10-day court order preventing a strike by AFL longshoremen against ships operating in the Atlantic Coast.

The Justice Department acted upon instructions from President Truman after a board appointed to make a fact-finding board reported that no solution to the labor dispute had been reached by the parties concerned and the strike was imminent.

The order, signed by Federal Judge Harold R. Medina, provided for an early hearing on an expected government request for the issuance of an 80-day injunction in accordance with the provisions of the Taft-Hartley law.

Affected by the temporary court order are some 45,000 dock workers represented by the AFL's International Longshoremen's Association and employed at seaports from Portland, Me., to Jacksonville, Fla.

Commenting on the court's order, Joseph P. Ryan, ILA president, said: "We naturally will live up to it and hope we will be able to adjust our differences and be able to get an agreement before the 80-day cooling-off period of the injunction."

Negotiations between the union and the ship companies recently became deadlocked after weeks of bargaining sessions. The principal obstacles to settlement, it was reported, was the issue of overtime pay. A Supreme Court decision on the question formed the basis of the issue.

Earlier this year the court ruled that premium pay for odd-hour work of the ILA longshoremen, regardless of the total hours worked during the night and week-end periods, is overtime pay. In negotiations the union has declined to give up this premium pay, which is termed overtime in the contract. But the ship companies say they cannot afford to continue without an adjustment in the wage scales to meet the new conditions.

The union also has asked for an increase of 50 cents above its present straight time rate of $1.80 an hour, and a 75-cent rise over the present night and week-end rate of $2.625. The operators, in turn, proposed a modification of contract overtime rates coupled with an unspecified increase in straight time rates.

Coal Miners' Pension Plan Takes Effect in September

Washington.—The first pension payments for retired soft coal miners will be distributed next month, according to an announcement by the United Mine Workers Welfare and Retirement Fund.

Applications for pensions, amounting to $100 a month, have been mailed to all local union offices for use by all eligible bituminous coal miners entitled to receive the benefits. Checks will be issued to pensions to anthracite miners in the near future.

Payments will be made from the $100,000,000-a-year welfare fund currently being built up by royalties of 20 cents a ton paid into the fund by the bituminous coal operators. Should the amount paid into last year's welfare fund, was the major gain won by the UMW in negotiating a new coal contract last June.

To qualify for pensions, miners must be 62 years of age or more and members of the UMW. Twenty years of service in the coal industry are required.

In view of the stipulated cut-off date of May 29, 1946, only miners who retired subsequent to that date are eligible for the $100 pension.

Fund officials regarded it as virtually impossible to estimate at this time how many miners would apply for pensions or how much payments would aggregate annually.

The monthly payment—representing about 31 percent of the average monthly wage of the bituminous miner, will be supplemented at the age of 65 by Social Security benefits of $20 a month, a total of $120 a month for the miner plus half again as much for a wife of 65 or over.

Action on the bituminous pension plan was a consequence of a ruling by Justice T. Alan Goldsborough of the United States District Court here, the same jurist who had previously laid down heavy penalties on the union and its chief in its battles with the government. In his decision on the plan Justice Goldsborough held that the pension plan evolved by the new trustee, Senator Bridges, and Mr. Lewis was "reasonable and proper" in all respects.

AFL Farm Labor Union Maps Court Test On Constitutionality of T-H Legislation

Washington.—An early Supreme Court test of the Taft-Hartley law is nearly all provisions of the CIO's Farm Labor Act, to be in the making as a case being considered by the National Labor Relations Board in Los Angeles, now in their third week.

The NLRB is conducting hearings on charges of the United Farm Labor Union, an AFL affiliate, on strike against the $100,000,000 Di Giorgio Fruit Corp. empire in Bakersfield, Calif., two locals of the Teamsters Union and the CIO United Farm Equipment Workers Union are accused of violating the anti-boycott and other provisions of the Labor-Management Relations Act.

The NLRB is conducting hearings on a petition for a writ of injunction federal court injunction shall be made permanent and the union penalized for violating the law.

Union attorneys have challenged the right of the labor board to enjoin peaceful picketing, alleged to be a secondary boycott. In this case they maintain that not only are the charges unfounded but that the union has a right to picket, which is just as elemental as free speech.

They also contend that the rule of labor unions by government injunction should be abolished as NLRB employs on suspicion that the law is being violated, when the law gives no opportunity to the unions to challenge the issuance of a federal court injunction.

Other issues at stake are the discriminatory features of the Taft-Hartley Act, exempting agricultural workers from the provisions of the law.

The NLRB is conducting hearings on charges that more are at stake than the welfare of 1,100 poorly paid farm workers in California. You feel that if this law can be used by an employer to destroy a union of agricultural workers, then it can be used to break any kind of labor organization. We are anxious to see whether or not the U. S. Supreme Court intends to smash all labor organization," Mr. Ryan said as NLRB trial board seems determined to smash the National Farm Labor Union."

VOLZ, WOLL ARE REELECTED BY AFL PHOTO-ENGRAVERS

Baltimore.—Edward J. Volz, of New York, was unanimously reelected president of the International Photo-Engravers Union of North America, an AFL affiliate, at the final session of the union's convention.

Other national officers elected unanimously were as follows: Matthew Woll, New York, first vice-president; Fred R. Ballbach, Detroit, second vice-president; Frank D. Smith, third vice-president; Wilfred T. Connell, Boston, fourth vice-president; William H. Graf, San Francisco, fifth vice-president, and Henry F. Schmal, St. Louis, secretary-treasurer.

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD VOTES FOR UNION SHOP

Hollywood, Calif.—Members of the Screen Actors Guild, affiliated with the AFL's Associated Actors and Artists of America, voted overwhelmingly for continuance of its union shop contract with motion picture studios.

In an election required by the Taft-Hartley law, although the union shop has been in effect since 1937, the union security measure was approved by a vote of 2,597 to 29. The ballot-ing was carried on by mail in order to give an opportunity to vote to the widely-scattered screen players.

"Conquered Boom" Due to Inflation, Council Says

Leaders Urge Action By Interested Groups To Stem Inflation

Chicago.—Warning that the unchecked inflation bubble is bound to burst with disastrous consequences to the nation, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor proposed a new program for corrective action.

The council called upon the government to bring together business and farm leaders with representatives of organized labor in a joint and voluntary effort to safeguard the economic security of the country.

"The objectives of such a program," the council said in a report issued in formal statement issued at the open-ing session of its midsummer meeting here, "should be to bring about an immediate halt to all price increases and a reduction in certain prices.

"It must be done in a way that will not dislocate our economy nor destroy the basis of any particular economic group. Above all, the continuation of high employment must be safeguarded."

AFL President William Green told newspapermen at a press conference that the council would lend unstinted assistance in discussing the inflation problem as the first order of business because organized labor considers it the greatest private threat to the stability of the nation and the peace of the world.

"Just think what would happen to the international situation," he said, "if we should say that what they are, and a business crash results in America which would make it impossible for us to extend any further assistance to the nations of Europe and Asia which were bankrupted by war."

In its statement, the executive council emphasized that the prospect of soaring living costs fails heaviest upon low-paid workers and those with fixed incomes.

"But even industrial workers, who have succeeded through their trade unions in obtaining several wage increases since the end of the war, are being caught in the squeeze, since wage rates inevitably lag behind prices during an inflationary spiral," the Green report said. "Several members of the executive council particularly emphasized the principle of business interests to blame higher prices on wage rates, when in a large number of specific instances were divided records showing profits had raised prices two and three times more than the actual amount necessary to cover added labor costs with the purpose of fattening the profits which belong to the gouger.

In a slashing attack on the profit policies of big business, the executive council said:

"As we survey the economic situation today, it appears evident that a large part of our current inflation is due, not to shortages in the essentials of consumer demand, but to a deliberate policy on the part of Big Business.

"The substance of that policy seems to be to get what the traffic will bear, while the getting is good.

The executive council solemnly warns that by following such a policy of inflationary profiteering Big Business will only be digging the grave of the free enterprise system.

"Our national economy cannot sustain the effects of inflation indefinitely. The bubble is bound to burst. It will then be too late to call for orderly and lasting prosperity and the economic security and peace will be shattered.

Certain factors cannot afford such a wild gamble. We must act now to prevent disaster.

Such action must be voluntary, the executive council explained, "in the absence of inflation legislation by Congress," to check inflation.

Administration of such a voluntary program will be beset with difficulties, the council admitted, but in the opinion of its statement, "but if all major groups in the American economic life join together in a sincere and determined effort to prevent a runaway inflation, tangible and constructive results can be achieved."

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS SHOW RISE IN MICHIGAN

Detroit.—Wage increases and a longer work week were reflected in State Labor Department report which showed the average Detroit worker's average weekly pay check for July up $9.54 from the 1947 figure.

The average was reported to be $69. Detroit plants was $65.65. The figure was $55.45 a year ago, the report said.

For the state as a whole, the average weekly pay in manufacturing industries was $62.57 for a 39.7-hour week, compared with $60.81 in June. Employment in 1,225 plants dropped 0.6 percent while pay rolls increased 6.7 percent and man-hours of work went up 2.2 percent. The average weekly wages in 155 auto and automotive parts plants was $64.66.

Pay checks were highest in Monroe, where the average was $73.84. Detroit workers averaged 39.1 hours weekly last month, compared with 36.5 a year before.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1948

GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

Contempt Action Brought Against ITU; Denham Moves to Halt Strike Benefits

Indianapolis.—Federal Judge Luther M. Swygert ordered the AFL's International Typographical Union and its officers into court Sept. 15 to defend themselves against charges of contempt of court action brought by Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board.

Denham, out to bust the union and break the strike of AFL printers against Chicago newspaper publishers, is demanding that the union be forced to stop the payment of strike benefits on the ground that such payments encourage a strike in violation of an illegal objective, the closed shop.

Henry Kaiser, ITU attorney, pledged the union to resist to the utmost the offensive action taken by Denham which he described as a "crude and dangerous perversion of the administrative process."

The contempt of court action was brought against the union because of alleged violations of an injunction issued against the union last March by Judge Swygert. Denham charged that the union continued to press demands for a closed shop prohibited by the Taft-Hartley law and by Judge Swygert's decree.

The NLRB general counsel pressed action in federal court even though an NLRB trial examiner, Stanley Lief, after extensive hearings on the case, concluded that the union security clauses sought by the union are not violations of the decree. Without waiting for final decision in the matter by the full NLRB, Denham hastened to wield a big legal stick in his attempt to bust the ITU.

In addition to requiring cessation of strike benefit payments to engage, the Denham petition would require the union to refrain also from demanding contract clauses which discriminate against non-union printers and which require that hiring be done by foremen who are ITU members.

Action by the NLRB general counsel followed by a few days a resolution adopted unanimously by the ITU's 90th convention charging that Senator Robert A. Taft engaged in "unwarranted interference" in the collective bargaining of the federal government. The resolution referred to published reports that Senator Taft held a meeting in his office attended by Chicago publishers and at which he called upon NLRB representatives to break up the contempt action. President Truman promised an investigation of the "shocking" charges.

Following is the text of a statement issued by Mr. Kaiser:

Denham's filing of a petition for an adjudication of contempt by the ITU is a crude and dangerous perversion of the administrative process. Acting as the craven and obsequious servant of Senator Taft and the Chicago newspapers publishers, Denham and his staff have brought forth completely unfounded charges against the ITU that it has violated Judge Swygert's decree in March and the union went without bothering to follow the customary and orderly legal procedure of investigating a single respondent or a single charge.

"President Truman has recently and properly criticized Senator Taft's dictation of Denham's policies of action as being wholly without a full investigation. But contrary to Denham's custom, he has given Denham in the face of pressure from Senator Taft and the Chicago newspaper industry, and so he proceeded with illegal haste to institute his presidential investigation.

"These are the latest instances of the determination of the Chicago newspapers and their authorized agents, Senator Taft and Mr. Denham, to destroy the ITU. Obviously, only the ITU will resist this offensive and will exert its authority with its every resource."

Consumer Gouged Again As Prices Hit New Peak; Profits Zoom Above 1947

Washington.—American consumers lost another pound of flesh to business Shylocks in July when higher prices continued to boost the cost of living while fattening profits.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that its consumers' price index as of July 15 advanced to another high at 173.7. This figure was 2.7 percent higher than a year ago; 20.2 percent above the June 1946 level, and 76.2 percent over the August 1939 level.

Meanwhile, financial reports for many corporations showed that profits were running well ahead of last year which itself was a record breaking period for earnings.

The consumers' price index, comprising the average prices of goods and services purchased by moderate-income families in large cities, reflected a 1.2 percent gain in a month's time in the prices of food, apparel, rent, fuel, house furnishings and miscellaneous items.

The continued rise in retail food prices brought the food index to 216.3 or 6 percent of the 1935-39 average. 12.3 percent higher than a year ago; 48.9 percent more than in June 1946; and 131.9 percent above the August 1939 level.

The principal increases were in prices of meats, poultry, fish, dairy products and eggs. Prices of fresh fruits and vegetables declined less than seasonally. Food prices rose in 50 of the 56 cities surveyed, dropped in 2 cities, and remained unchanged in 4 cities.

Another federal report on prices backed up the BLS findings with respect to the increasing cost of living. The Department of Agriculture reported that the family "market basket" cost more in June than ever before.

Its retail cost rose from an annual rate of $695 in May to $705, more than 1 percent above the previous record of $693 set in January 1948. It exceeded the World War I record of $615, reached in June 1920 by nearly 15 percent, and was 76 percent above the 1935-39 average.

As a base for figuring the cost of the "market basket," the Department of Agriculture uses annual purchases of farm food products for a family of three average consumers in the 1935-39 period.

Green Says Czech Move for 6-Day Week Proof Reds Kill All Labor Organizations

Chicago.—AFL President William Green declared that recent news from Czechoslovakia is sufficient proof that no labor organization can remain free under Communism.

Dispatches from Prague told how the Red-directed Czechoslovakian General Confederation of Labor is propagandizing for the 6-day instead of the 5-day week.

The propaganda makes the point that the 5-day week represents personal interests, whereas the 6-day week represents national needs.

Commenting on the Czech proposal, Green said:

"If any proof were needed that communism and reactionism are synonymous, it is provided by press dispatches that the Communist-controlled Confederation of Labor in Prague is conducting a propaganda campaign to convince the people of that country they should surrender a 5-day week and accept a 6-day week.

"This comes as a shock to American workers. It shows that organized labor can be free under communism because it is compelled to subordinate the interests of the workers to those of the Communist party."

Green said Czechoslovakia's newspaper says, according to The New York Times, that large factories introduced the 5-day week in the winter of 1946 because of an emergency situation, and stressed this would be a transitory matter."

The Czech paper said further:

"All socialistic groups now speak for a 6-day week, which in most workshops has been in force for a generation. If anybody is so foolish as to think that the 5-day week is modern progress we have to remind him that the whole history of the workers' struggle there never has been any talk about a shorter week than the 48-hour week.

"In the socialist country, the Soviet Union, they did not introduce the 5-day week. Finally, in other people's democratic state is forced to give attention to this issue."

Complaints that the shortage of consumer goods is due to short production can get little for their money in retail stores in the Soviet-dominated countries. The Communists want a longer work week in Czechoslovakia.

Non-Partisan Policy Backed By AFL's Political League

Council Assails T-H Law As 'Cancerous'; Says Its Effects Are Worse Than Expected

Chicago.—The AFL Executive Council declared that the Taft-Hartley law is "cancerous to the core and cannot be cured by the minor surgery of amendments."

Urging its early and complete repeal, the council, at its midsummer session here, said that labor's experience under the law in the first year of its operation "has confirmed our worst fears and has made it clear to us that this obnoxious law is even more dangerous than we anticipated."

In advances of a detailed report on the subject to be submitted and acted on at the forthcoming convention of the American Federation of Labor, the council released a statement indicting the law on 6 counts. The statement declared:

"1. The Taft-Hartley Act has failed in its professed objective of reducing strikes and improving labor-management relations. In fact, in the year it has been the direct cause of a large number of strikes which otherwise would have occurred. A notable example is the strike of members of the International Typographical Union against the newspaper publishers in Chicago. Both sides agree that the Taft-Hartley Act has put in their place were it not for certain provisions of the law which the NLRB has constituted a new 'Bill of Rights' for employers. Under this law the union fails to disclose a single instance of any benefit derived by wage earners from the operations of this act. On the other hand, millions of American workers have been forced to continue to work for their employers without wages because of court injunctions and others have been required to act as strikebreakers against their fellow unionists because of the law's antilabor boycotts. Beyond this, many workers have been denied the benefits of unionism because the act strengthened the hand of antiunion employers and intensified their efforts to weaken organization of their employes.

"2. The claim that unemployment by its sponsors to the contrary, the act definitely has impaired liberty of labor to strike. This has been proved time and again in the court injunctions prohibiting strikes. Even more dangerously, the law has interpolated placed upon the provisions of the act by the National Labor Relations Board. A glaring instance is a ruling by a second board trial examiner Howard Myers in a case involving the International Typographical Union, from which we quote the following language:

"'. . . the right to require a union sure to work with nonmembers, and other labor being equal, is not derived from contracts. It is a public right established by the (Taft-Hartley) act. To condone a contractual restriction of that right would be to defeat one of the very purposes for which the Wagner Act was amended (by the Taft-Hartley Act)."

"Anyone at all familiar with the tradition of trade-unionism will need but a glance how this ruling, if upheld, strikes at the very heart of our movement.

"4. The machinery of the National Labor Relations Board is on the point of breakdown. Even before the Taft-Hartley law was imposed upon it by the Taft-Hartley Act. The task would be utterly impossible, as we predicted, even to process the union-shop elections required by the act. It is estimated that it would take the NLRB 3 years to conduct all the elections required by the Taft-Hartley law. Furthermore, the official records show that between 30 and 40 percent of the elections held to date. This whole section of the law was a barefaced attempt to undermine the confidence of workers to their unions and to destroy the unity of members of unions.

"5. There has been improper interference with the administration of the act by the legislative branch of the government. Senator Taft, the professional 'Watchdog Committee' has applied the whip over the NLRB to toughen up the board's policies toward labor. Senator Taft's committee has even intervened in strikes in the name of congressional Senator Taft, himself, the author of the act, has appeared in the role of prosecutor. Times, summoned members of the legal staff of the NLRB to his office and in the presence of representatives of Chicago newspaper publishers, demanded that contempt of court proceedings be pressed against the International Typographical Union. Such tactics are completely improper and inexcusable.

"6. The act has abridged the political freedoms of American workers and has prevented labor and trade unions in seeking to conduct effective political activities in the present election campaign. Thus far the courts have refused to hear any appeals rulings on the constitutionality of the Taft-Hartley Act provisions which prohibits political expenditures by unions. The Court in every instance merely held that the act does not prohibits the publication of political endorsements by union newspapers. In a second case, a federal district judge upheld the constitutionality of the ban on union political expenditures, but this was only the first round in a legal test which, unfortunately, cannot be brought before the Supreme Court in time to get a final decision before the November elections."

Independent AFL Unit, Formed by Leaders, To Back Truman

Chicago.—Reaffirming the American Federation of Labor's nonpartisan political policy, Labor's League for Political Education has announced after an important policy meeting here that it will concentrate its efforts on the congressional campaign and stay out of the presidential race.

At the same time, however, George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and a member of the AFL Executive Council, announced that the leaders of nearly all AFL unions, acting as individuals, are forming an independent committee for the election of the Truman-Barkley ticket.

"Forty national union presidents already have trades aloes, Mr. Harrison declared, "and within a week we expect to be able to announce that they will all be in, with the possible exception of three or four."

Previously, the administrative committee of Labor's League for Political Education, in executive session, had agreed to a long discussion of whether the league, as such, should endorse a candidate for President.

No direct motions to this effect were made, the vote was taken and no formal decision was made, AFL President William Green said after the session was later, but the consensus of opinion among the 24 AFL leaders who make up the committee was that the league should adhere to its original purpose—namely, the election of a new Congress which would favor repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and enactment of liberal legislation.

Detailed reports were made to the conference on the political situation with regard to the 32 Senate seats at stake in the November elections and in every congressional contest in each state.

Mr. Harrison declared that the league will concentrate its fire on the senatorial races in 13 states, namely, Rhode Island, New Mexico, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Idaho and Michigan. In all the foregoing cases, the league is supporting the Democratic candidates for Senator, or at least is opposing the Republican incumbents.

Joseph Keenan, national director of the league, disclosed that he plans to start on a strong drive in September to prevail upon all union members and their families to register and to actually active campaign in October to make certain those who register actually go to the polls to cast their votes.

"We don't want to be left off them on the books," he said, "and then to be counted out on election day."

The league discussed elaborate plans to use posters, billboards, leaflets and pamphlets and direct checks at union meetings to make these drives effective.

Harry Bennett reported that a survey among local unions throughout the Newark, N. J., undertaken as a test case, indicated only a small percentage of union members had thus far registered in order to qualify to vote in November.

"I fear that may be typical of conditions all over the country and that is why we are concentrating our efforts to get out the vote," he said, "for if we do succeed in getting them to the vote," Mr. Green replied, "I have no doubt that we will be sweeping victories in the election."

Secretary-Treasurer George Meany presented a financial report to the conference which was described as very encouraging. While no figures will be made public until they are audited by the official congressional committees which check on campaign contributions and expenditures, Mr. Meany expressed confidence that the league's funds will be collected in voluntary contributions from union members and from all the league's activities and provide direct aid to the candidates receiving the league's endorsement.

Public Spirited AFL Unions Assure Met's Continuance

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The Metropolitan Opera 1948-49 season has been saved by the genuine sacrifices of the 31 AFL unions which unselfishly decided to waive the just demands of their membership, for one year, in order to serve the public interest.

The decision, announced by the Met's board of directors, followed an outburst of public indignation at the original decision by the Met to shut down operations rather than accept the union's new contract.

The unions immediately took the lead in a "save the Opera" campaign, not to benefit the board of directors or the Diamond Horseshoe patrons but for the American people who look forward to the Saturday afternoon broadcasts or who have contributed money to keep the Met going because the met represents an integral part of our culture.

The drive, which enlisted the full-hearted support of the musicians, the stagehands and the musical artists, was greeted enthusiastically by newspapers ordinarily hostile to labor, pointing out that it was made clear that to wage disputes were involved, only the issue of social welfare benefits for the Met's 600-odd employees.

"We are determined," said the union statement, "to obtain the elemental rights of unemployment and social security insurance which millions of Americans have enjoyed for more than a decade. Such benefits are particularly vital to the employees of the Metropolitan for the short period of their employment."

The Met's board pledged that it would immediately start exploring the possibilities of introducing social welfare gains for its employes. A joint committee of management and the unions is to be set up "to study the many problems of mutual concern."

Until then—the show will go on, thanks to 600 AFL members and their unions which forced the Met to listen to public opinion.

For Labor Day Editions:

Taft-Hartley Law Hit by Catholic Group; Labor-Management Cooperation Urged

Washington.—The National Catholic Welfare Conference has called for elimination of the "cumbersome and obstructive provisions" of the Taft-Hartley law, and urged Congress to frame legislation that will promote cooperation rather than give occasion for needless conflict."

This demand was contained in a special Labor Day message issued by the Social Action Department of the NCWC which appealed to both labor and management groups "to cooperate unselfishly among themselves and with the government to hasten the reestablishment of a better and a more Christian social order."

Specifically, the statement urged the government to call together responsible leaders of labor, management, agriculture and the professions to plan voluntarily "for the common good of their respective industries and professions and for the general economic welfare of the country as a whole."

Lashing out at those who would bring ruin to the American labor movement, charged as a "tremendous force for good in the economic and social life of the nation" the Catholic statement declared:

"We repudiate as a debilitating and discriminatory the efforts of those who, not content with the disruptive effects of the Taft-Hartley Act, are clamoring for further restrictions on the labor movement. We call attention in particular to the baneful influence of certain types of punitive legislation at the state level which are calculated to foster rather than diminish industrial strife and which are designed, whether willfully or not, to cripple the labor movement rather than reform it. In addition we recommend that the Taft-Hartley Act itself be amended in the light of experience in the United States, and that the cumbersome and obstructive provisions concerning the labor movement itself be eliminated, so that only truly socially beneficial features should be retained.

"A year today we expressed the judgment that the Taft-Hartley Act is 'in inadequate and shortsighted approach to the very complicated problem of industrial relations." The passage of time by day and enforcement during the past year indicates that the measure was not sufficiently constructive and reinforces our condemnation. Congress ought to take a deeper in its inquiry into the underlying causes of industrial unrest. This is the way to frame legislation as will promote cooperation rather than give occasion for needless conflict."

AFL on the Air

Listen each week to "Summer Serenade," the AFL 15-minute radio show featuring a symphonic orchestra under the direction of Glenn Osser and brief educational messages of interest to labor and the general public.

Time: Tuesday evenings at 10:15 p.m. EDT.

Network: American Broadcasting Co.

Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

Mounting Credit Seen Inflation Peril; Federal Reserve Reports Rising Debt

Washington.—In advance of the reimposition of credit controls on installment buying Sept. 20, the Federal Reserve Board declared that a rapidly rising volume of credit is "a more purchasing power to the already swollen spending stream and is therefore inflationary pressures."

A board survey reported the following developments:

1. During the 3 years since V-J Day, the American people have gone into debt more rapidly than in any other period in our history.

2. Debt will continue to rise despite the controls, and the $8,000,000,000 added American families probably will be more than $50,000,000,000 for home mortgages and consumer-goods purchases by the end of 1948.

Mortgage debt has jumped $10,000,000,000 in the 3 years, reaching a present total exceeding $32,000,000,000, which also is the result of home buying, the Reserve Board said in its August bulletin.

Credit given to retail buyers has increased $8,000,000,000 during the same period to a total of $14,150,000,000. Installment buying accounted for slightly more than half of the total outstanding.

The Board said that each 4 families was a time-payment buyer last year, compared to 1 out of 5 years or 1 during the year before.

The board undertook to rebut a contention, advanced by the American Bankers Association, to the effect that installment credit was not an especial factor in the inflation. The bankers' argument has cited that installment credit was less now than it was after war in terms of income after taxes.

The Reserve Board said this understanding now amounted to no more than 12 percent of income after taxes, against a record 15 percent reached in the late prewar years, but it added: "In view of the current tight situation in supplies of labor and materials, however, the amount of installment credit can neither increase outright nor decrease much."

"It can only add more purchasing power to the already swollen spending stream and reinforce inflationary pressures," the statement continued, moreover, inevitably cause added pressures in the markets for consumers' durable goods."

Manufacturers Warned on Violations Of Contracts With ILGWU Affiliate

Philadelphia.—Failure of 3 manufacturers to pay contract-required contributions to the Fair Income Fund of the Philadelphia dress industry joint board of the ILGWU gave the industry's impartial chairman, Dr. Lazare Teper, the opportunity to condemn the violations, and to warn the entire industry the sanctity of the contract and to warn against any violations of its provisions in the future.

Although the manufacturers hastened to pay up their "arrearages" shortly after Manager Samuel Shore filed charges with Dr. Taylor, he proceeded with the case declaring "the issues raised are important and it is apparent the exact obligations of all companies party to the agreement respecting payments to the Fair Income Fund and the Health Insurance Fund, should be made clear."

After reviewing the appropriate clauses of the agreement, Dr. Teper decreed:

"1. A signatory employer will violate the agreement provisions relating to the Fair Income Fund and the Health Insurance Fund as well if he:

"a. Fails to make weekly contributions to the Fair Income Fund specified by the agreement, concurrently with each payroll.

"b. Fails to file with the association (Philadelphia Dress Manufacturers Association) the weekly payroll reports required by the agreement, concurrently with each payroll.

"c. Fails to permit free access, at reasonable times, to records relating to, or covered, are proper grounds for a request upon the impartial chairman to specify penalties in such terms as will remove any advantages sought to be secured by the violations and in addition such terms which will act as a deterrent for the members of the association to violate other provisions of the agreement."

ECA, DEFENSE SPENDING TO BRING LABOR SHORTAGE

Washington.—Under the appropriations made by Congress for air defense and European recovery, the operation Administration, local labor shortages will develop in aircraft and shipbuilding centers, are predicted.

In a study of reports received from state, community and labor sources throughout the country, the United States Employment Service said that the overall labor supply is tightest in a number of aircraft centers concentrated in the Great Lakes and Middle Atlantic industrial regions.

Labor shortages will not be confined to these areas, however, but will vary depending upon the industry, occupational skills, and timing of employment expected required in a given area, the labor market situation, and the competition from other industries for labor supply in the same area.

Adjusting labor supply between areas through migration will be difficult, since construction, especially housing, are universally short, the USES reported. The increased expansion program will probably be from those already employed in other industries, due to the fact that there is little slack in the labor supply of those unemployed are not occupationally suitable.

U. S. REVENUE INCREASES; NEARLY $3 BILLION OVER '47

Washington.—Internal Revenue collections rose $2,756,156,563 in the fiscal year ended June 30 over the previous year, the Treasury reported.

Total receipts in fiscal 1948 totaled $41,864,542,268 against $39,108,385,741 in fiscal 1947, a rise of 7 percent.

In only five states did collections drop below the previous year—Delaware, 4.7 percent, and Maryland, 1.8 percent, being among them. All other states had increases.

Harry Stevenson is Dead; Was Molders Union Head

Manchester, England.—Harry Stevenson, president of the AFL's International Molders and Foundry Workers Union of America, died suddenly while visiting here as a guest of the British Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers. He was 69 years of age.

Prior to his recent arrival in Great Britain, Mr. Stevenson attended the 50th anniversary of the British Foundry Workers Union and the Swedish Molders Union Congress, and the International Conference of Foundry Unions in Stockholm.

Mr. Stevenson had been president since 1939 of the Foundry Workers Union, which has 90,000 members in the United States, Canada, the Panama Canal Zone and Hawaii.

Born in Birmingham, England, he came to this country in 1898 and settled in Jersey City, N. J., where he was employed in the plant of the Farrell Foundry. Later he worked in Newark, N. J., for the Cyrus Currier Foundry. He held various offices in the union and was director concern to become district representative on the New York Conference Board in 1917.

In 1928 Mr. Stevenson was elected sixth vice-president of the international union and in 1934 was elected president.

Last January his union signed for 18,000 members a contract with the Stove Manufacturers Protective and Development Association, the 58th annual pact without a strike.

WINE WORKERS UNION SETS CONVENTION DATE

Chicago.—Joseph O'Neill, president of the AFL's Distillery, Rectifying and Wine Workers International announced that the 4th biennial convention of the union will be held in Chicago Sept. 7-10.

The first three scheduled to address the delegates who will represent the union's 30,000 members in the United States and Canada are AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer Meany, the AFL's secretary-treasurer.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES INCREASE 10% IN JULY

Detroit.—U. S. factory sales of motor vehicles during July totaled 474,397 units, an increase of approximately 10 percent over June, the Automobile Manufacturers Association announced.

The month's output of passenger cars, trucks and buses was the second highest since the war. Peak month came in March of this year when 492,913 vehicles were built.